

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 1-10, and add new claim 11 as follows:

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A/B1  
1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a an  
actual execution workflow for executing a flow of work on the  
basis of a virtual workflow for monitoring said actual  
execution workflow, said actual execution workflow and said  
virtual workflow including a plurality of nodes, respectively,  
~~the workflow definition information for defining the flow of~~  
~~service through the use of a processing apparatus, comprising~~  
the steps of:

~~corresponding selecting a processing node of said~~  
actual execution workflow to make the node thus selected be  
linked with a node of said a virtual workflow; defined  
~~according to a requester's purpose with a processing node of~~  
~~an actual workflow that is the actual service;~~

specifying a node of said virtual workflow;

acquiring a node of said actual execution workflow  
linked with the node thus specified; and being currently  
processed; and

outputting a progress state of the acquired node as  
a progress state of the specified node of said virtual  
workflow

~~comparing said acquired node being currently~~  
~~processed with a node of said actual workflow definition~~  
~~related with the node of said virtual workflow definition, and~~

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~~outputting as a progressing state of said virtual workflow the processing state of the node of said actual workflow being matched to said node being processed or previous to said node being currently processed and closest to a candidate node, and a virtual node being related with said candidate node having an access right of said requester.~~

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2. (Currently Amended) ~~A The method for managing a virtual workflow as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ setting a user's privilege of operation at each node of said virtual workflow; and~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ registering the user's privilege of operation thus set in a virtual workflow definition for defining said virtual workflow when said virtual workflow is defined, specifying a node to be opened as a node of said virtual workflow of nodes composing said actual workflow and setting a right of operation of said requester of said specified node; and~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ registering a virtual workflow definition for connecting said set nodes with an are.~~

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A The method for managing a virtual workflow as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:~~

a/ determining an actual execution workflow definition  
for defining said actual execution workflow by using an  
attribute of a virtual workflow definition for defining said  
virtual workflow; and

inputting execution information of said actual  
execution workflow by using the actual execution workflow  
definition thus determined before outputting the progressing  
state of said virtual workflow, determining the corresponding  
actual workflow definition to said virtual workflow definition  
by using the attribute defined in said virtual workflow  
definition; and inputting execution information of said  
virtual workflow by using said determined actual workflow  
definition.

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4. (Currently Amended) A virtual workflow managing system for managing a an actual execution workflow for  
executing a flow of work as accessing an actual execution  
workflow definition information for defining a flow of  
service, said actual execution workflow and a virtual workflow  
definition for defining a virtual workflow for monitoring said  
actual execution workflow, said actual execution workflow and  
said virtual workflow including a plurality of nodes,  
respectively, comprising:

a storage unit for storing said actual execution  
workflow definition containing an ID of said actual execution

workflow and an ID of each of nodes contained in said actual execution workflow;

a storage unit for storing virtual workflow definition ~~information containing an ID information of a said~~ virtual workflow definition, ~~an ID information of each of~~ nodes contained in said virtual workflow definition, and access ~~right privilege~~ information given ~~to a~~ by the user using of said virtual workflow definition at each node of said virtual workflow; and

a workflow link definition ~~information storage unit~~ for storing an ID of a link linking an ID of a node of said virtual workflow with an ID of a corresponding node selected from said actual execution workflow of the corresponding link to the link with a combination of ID information of said node of said virtual workflow definition, ID information of an actual workflow definition, and a node of said actual workflow definition.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A The method for managing a virtual workflow as claimed in claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of virtual workflow definitions for defining said virtual workflow, said method further comprising the steps of:~~

inputting information for selecting virtual workflow definition ~~information; and~~

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determining a virtual workflow definition ~~used by~~  
~~said selected virtual workflow definition~~ on the basis of said  
input information.

6. (Currently Amended) In a workflow system having a  
client and a server, a method for managing ~~a virtual workflow~~  
an actual execution workflow for executing a flow of work on  
the basis of a virtual workflow for monitoring said actual  
execution workflow, said actual execution workflow and said  
virtual workflow including a plurality of nodes, respectively,  
said method comprising the steps of:

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holding a virtual workflow definition ~~composed of~~  
~~virtual~~ for defining nodes of said virtual workflow defined  
according to the purpose of use ~~by~~ ~~of~~ said client, an actual  
execution workflow definition for defining processing composed  
~~of actual nodes of said actual execution workflow~~  
~~corresponding to an actual service,~~ and a workflow link  
definition for linking indicating correspondence between said  
virtual workflow definition of nodes of said virtual workflow  
with and said actual workflow definition of selected nodes of  
said actual execution workflow, on the basis of an indication  
given from said client;

searching ~~an actual a node of said actual execution~~  
workflow corresponding to a virtual node of said virtual

Q1 workflow specified by said client, based on said workflow link definition; and

outputting a progress ~~precessing~~ state of said searched ~~actual~~ node of said actual execution workflow as a progressing state of said specified ~~virtual~~ node of said virtual workflow to said client.

B1 7. (Currently Amended) In a system ~~for managing a virtual workflow~~ having a client and a server, and for managing an actual execution workflow for executing a flow of work on the basis of a virtual workflow for monitoring said actual execution workflow, said actual execution workflow and said virtual workflow including a plurality of nodes, respectively, said server comprising:

an information storage unit for storing a virtual workflow definition ~~composed of a virtual~~ for defining nodes of said virtual workflow ~~node defined according to the a~~ purpose of use by said client, an actual workflow definition for defining processing nodes of said actual execution workflow ~~composed of an actual node corresponding to an actual service,~~ and a workflow link definition for linking ~~indicating correspondence between said virtual workflow definition of nodes of said virtual workflow with and said actual workflow definition of selected nodes of said actual execution workflow;~~

A1 a processing unit for searching a ~~an actual~~ node of said actual execution workflow corresponding to a ~~virtual~~ node of said virtual workflow specified by said client, based on said workflow link definition; and

a processing unit for outputting a progress ~~process-~~ing state of said searched ~~actual~~ node of said actual execution workflow as a ~~the~~ progressing state of said specified ~~virtual~~ node of said virtual workflow to said client.

B1 8. (Currently Amended) In a storage medium ~~being~~ readable by a computer for storing a program of a method for managing an actual execution workflow for executing a flow of work on the basis of a virtual workflow for monitoring said actual execution workflow ~~a virtual workflow~~, executed by a sever in a workflow system having a client and a ~~said~~ server, said actual execution workflow and said virtual workflow including a plurality of nodes, respectively, said managing method comprising the steps of:

holding a virtual workflow definition ~~composed of~~ virtual ~~for defining nodes of said virtual workflow defined~~ according to a ~~the~~ purpose of use by ~~of~~ said client, an actual execution workflow definition for defining processing ~~composed of actual nodes of said actual execution workflow and~~ ~~corresponding to an actual service, a workflow link definition~~

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for linking indicating correspondence between said virtual workflow definition of nodes of said virtual workflow with and said actual workflow definition of selected nodes of said actual execution workflow, based on an indication given from said client;

searching a an actual node of said actual execution workflow corresponding to a virtual node of said virtual workflow specified by said client, based on said workflow link definition; and

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outputting a progress processing state of said searched actual node of said actual execution workflow as a progressing state of said specified virtual node of said virtual workflow to said client.

9. (Currently Amended) The A method for managing a virtual workflow as claimed in claim 6, wherein said virtual workflow definition holds information about a type of a privilege of an operation right of by said client to against said actual workflow definition at each virtual node of said virtual workflow, said type being at least one privilege selected from a display privilege, a reference privilege and an input privilege.

10. (Currently Amended) The A method for managing a virtual workflow as claimed in claim 6, wherein each of said



*Q1*  
*contd.* ~~virtual nodes contained in/~~ said virtual workflow definition is  
linked with a node selected from ~~corresponds to said actual~~  
~~node contained in a plurality of actual workflow definitions.~~

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*Q2*  
*B1* 11. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, further  
comprising the steps of:

if a privilege of reference to the acquired node is  
not permitted to a user requesting the progress state of the  
specified node, searching the nodes of said actual execution  
workflow for a previous node closest to the acquired node and  
having a privilege of reference permitted to the user; and

outputting a progress state of the previous node as  
a progress state of the specified node of said virtual  
workflow.

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